

Dated: October 24, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the Fostoria (OH) Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of Fostoria Grain Inspection, Inc. (Fostoria), to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 1997.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the June 2, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 29707), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic area assigned to Fostoria to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by July 1, 1997. Fostoria, the only applicant, applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Fostoria was the only applicant for the area, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicant.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Fostoria is able to provide official services in the geographic area for which they applied. Effective December 1, 1997, and ending November 30, 1998, Fostoria is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the June 2, 1997, **Federal Register**.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Fostoria at 419-435-3804.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) intention to request an extension for and revision to the currently approved information collection for "Regulations Governing the National Inspection and Weighing System Under the United States Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 2, 1998.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Sharon Vassiliades, ARTS, GIPSA, USDA, STOP 3649, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-3649, or FAX 202 720-4628, telephone: 202 720-1738, e-mail: svassili@fgisd.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Grain Standards Acts (USGSA) and the Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) were enacted to facilitate the marketing of grain, oilseeds, pulses, rice, and related commodities. These statutes establish standards and terms which accurately and consistently measure the quality of grain and related products, provide for uniform official inspection and weighing, provide regulatory and service responsibilities, and furnish the framework for commodity quality improvement incentives to both domestic and foreign buyers. The Federal Grain Inspection Service of USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration establishes policies, guidelines, and regulations to carry out the objectives of the USGSA and the AMA.

The USGSA, with few exceptions, requires official certification of export grain sold by grade. Official services are provided, upon request, for grain in

domestic commerce. The AMA authorizes similar inspection and weighing services, upon request, for rice, pulses, flour, corn meal, and certain other agricultural products. Conversely, the regulations promulgating the USGSA and AMA require specific information collection and recordkeeping necessary to carry out requests for official services. Applicants for service must specify the kind and level of service desired, the identification of the product, the location, the amount, and other pertinent information in order that official personnel can efficiently respond to their needs.

Official services under the USGSA are provided through FGIS field offices and delegated and/or designated State and private agencies. Delegated agencies are State agencies delegated authority under the Act to provide official inspection service, Class X or Class Y weighing services, or both, at one or more export port locations in the State. Designated agencies are State or local governmental agencies or persons designated under the Act to provide either official inspection services, Class X or Class Y weighing services, or both, at locations other than export port locations. State and private agencies, as a requirement for delegation and/or designation, must comply with all regulations, procedures, and instructions in accordance with provisions established under the USGSA. FGIS field offices oversee the performance of these agencies and provide technical guidance as needed.

Official services under the AMA are performed, upon request, on a fee basis for domestic and export shipments either by FGIS employees, individual contractors, or cooperators. Contractors are persons who enter into a contract with FGIS to perform specified inspection services. Cooperators are agencies or departments of the Federal Government which have an interagency agreement or State agencies which have a reimbursable agreement with FGIS.

Title: Regulations Governing the National Inspection and Weighing System Under the USGSA and AMA of 1946.

OMB Number: 0580-0013.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 1998.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*) provide that USDA inspect, certify and identify the class, quality, quantity and condition of agricultural products shipped or